



Library Info Alert

September 2004

Library Info Alert focuses on recent developments in the field of library science and information management in the United States. It contains summaries of articles from leading library-related periodicals and recommended Internet sites. The *Library Info Alert* is published by the Information Resource Centers in Germany.

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(click on underlined headings)

In Focus:

Gumshoe Librarian: "Where in the World Is ..."

<http://www.llrx.com/features/gumshoe.htm>

Created by law librarians Barbara Fullerton and Sabrina Pacifici for the Law Library Resource Xchange (LLRX), this online bibliography includes links to 73 websites. These sites provides links to material for conducting research on business and corporate data, global news, international and comparative law, country profiles and statistics, locating people, businesses, banking resources. Most of the listed sites are free, although several may have a fee-based component and/or require registration.

Google's Define: Feature

Mary Ellen Bates Tip of the Month, September 2004

<http://www.batesinfo.com/tip.html>

Research results from a search engine are at times irrelevant because the searcher uses a word that has multiple meanings. Google offers an easy way to double-check the different meanings of a word. In the Google search bar, type "define: word". For example, if you are looking for information on a new computer chip technology. Type "define:chip" in the Google bar and you will see a list of all the meanings of the word 'chip', including "a thin crisp slice of potato fried in deep fat", "a small disk-shaped counter used to represent money when gambling" and even "a piece of dried bovine dung".

You can subscribe to Mary Ellen Bates Tip of the Month free of charge:

<http://www.batesinfo.com/tip.html>

Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read

American Library Association

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/backgroundb/background.htm>

Banned Books Week (BBW) is celebrated in the last week of September. It celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them. This site by the American Library Association (ALA) provides extensive information on banned and challenged books, background information and related links.

Good to the Last Drop: Dimensions and Cultural Implications of Coffee Service in Libraries

Pamela Aban, Marcia Kalayjian, Judy Polak, Beth Weixler

<http://www.nvcc.edu/home/bweixler/coffee>

This paper by a group of library science students at the University of South Carolina discusses "the general history of coffee and coffeehouses, the history of the coffee service trend, implementation of the coffee concept, listservs regarding coffee shops in libraries, the pros and cons of coffee shops in libraries, and the cultural implications." Included is a list of journal articles and other resources on the topic.

Article Alert:

1 Literacy Redefined

(*Library Journal*, September 1, 2004, Vol. 129, Iss. 14, pp. 49 - 52)

What does it mean to be literate in the 21st century? Fifty years ago a high school graduate with some basic reading and writing ability could get a well-paying blue-collar job. Today a person at the same level might have trouble finding good work and may be considered illiterate in some circles. The past half-century has brought us not only astonishing technological transformations but expanded definitions of the term literacy. (E)

2 Seattle Opening Draws Huge Crowds

(*American Libraries*, August 2004, Vol. 35, Iss. 7, pp. 12 - 14)

Architectural critics are still raving and usage statistics have gone through the roof since some 28,000 visitors attended the long-awaited opening of Seattle's new central library, which has generated a national conversation about public. Designed by a Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, the 362,987-square-foot, 15-story facility has room for 1.4 million volumes--it currently holds 800,000--and features a "Books Spiral" with a continuous series of bookshelves that take up the equivalent of four slanted middle floors joined in series of zigzagging ramps. (E)

3 Staying Public: The Real Crisis in Librarianship

(*American Libraries*, August 2004, Vol. 35, Iss. 7, pp. 40 - 43)

John Buschman, collection development librarian and department chair of Moore Library at Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, discusses the real crisis in librarianship. Among other things, he mentions that librarianship, in many important ways, makes possible the ideal of the democratic public sphere through the rational organization of the cultural products of humanity--in effect keeping the ideal embodying it in the multiplicity of voices and perspectives librarians consciously select. (E)

4 Libraries That Wow and Welcome

(Building Design and Construction, August 2004, Vol. 45, Issue 8, pp. 52 - 60)

The Seattle Public Library's Central Library, Salt Lake City Public Library, and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library in San Jose, CA, emphasize design in ways that wow, welcome, and attract patrons, while at the same time providing comfortable, entertaining, and easy-to-use spaces in which to access books and a proliferation of electronic information. These libraries are trendsetters, but they are not alone in reflecting many of the new developments taking place in libraries large and small. As has been the case with K-12 schools recently, partnered facilities, which leverage costs and the building space for multiple uses, are now becoming typical elements of library construction. At the Courtland (CA) Community Library, the town's library is commingled with a school. The idea of the library as a venue in which to foster a sense of community rather than a place to simply go pick up a book is important. (PQ)

5 Goodbye Orlando?

(Library Journal, August 2004, Vol. 129, Iss. 13, pp. 36 - 45)

The American Library Association's (ALA) Annual Conference, June 24-30, in steamy Orlando, drew 19,575 people, including 5,739 exhibitors, the lowest total since Miami in 1994, not counting the SARS-shadowed conference in Toronto last year. Top issues covered were funding and recruiting, as well as technology implementation, including the increasingly popular RFID. ALA began to confront some organizational issues, including a possible dues increase. (E)

6 Information Wants to be Free- Bullcookies!

(Information Outlook, July 2004, Vol. 8, Iss. 7, pp. 34 - 36)

This article elaborates on some of the ways libraries can unfetter or make information flow freely to end-users. Among them is making information easier to find by using simple tools like federated search and adopting appropriate standards like Z39.50. Federated search removes the barrier to not knowing where to search in the first place. (PQ)

7 Building Context-Based Library Instruction

(Journal of Education for Business, July/August 2004, Vol. 79, Iss. 6, pp. 323 - 328)

Information overload and rapid technology changes are among the most significant challenges to all professions, particularly information technology workers and librarians. Little is known about the effectiveness of partnerships among librarians and faculty members that result in context-based library instruction. In this study, the authors evaluated one particular partnership focused on improving the information competence of management information systems undergraduates. A comparison of pre- and post library-instruction surveys showed that students developed greater confidence with course activities and higher standards in research. (E)

8 Library Acquisitions Management: Methods to Enhance Vendor Assessment and Library Performance

(Library Administration, Summer 2004, Vol. 18, Iss. 3, pp. 146 - 155)

This paper is a revised version of a video-conferenced workshop "Getting the Most for Your Money: Electronic Books and Vendor Relations As Components of Library Acquisitions,"

presented by the Alabama Library Association Education Committee. The workshop was conducted concurrently at sites across Alabama, including Birmingham, Dothan, Gadsden, Huntsville, Mobile, Monroeville, Montgomery, Troy, and Tuscaloosa. The world has changed for most libraries over the past decade. Budgets and resources are shrinking. Expressions such as doing more with less, working smarter, not harder, and getting more bang for the buck are commonplace. Between 2000 and 2001, prices for hardcover books increased by an average of almost \$10.1 Good business practices are no longer optional-they are a matter of survival. In this new environment of shrinking dollars and dwindling resources, libraries need anything that can help them optimize spending and maximize efficiency. (PQ)

9 Grateful Recipients: Library Staff As Active Participants in Fund-Raising
(*Library Administration*, Summer 2004, Vol. 18, Iss. 3, pp. 140 - 146)

Successful fund development is described as "the mystical mingling of a joyful giver, an artful asker, and a grateful recipient" by Don Gray, vice president of the University of Wisconsin Foundation and a frequent presenter at development workshops. In library fund-raising, the grateful recipients are library staff, but they are often overlooked as partners in the fund-raising process. It is an unfortunate omission, because library workers have expertise and knowledge that can be very helpful in fund-raising. (PQ)

10 To Fix or Not to Fix: Online Corrections Policies Vary Widely

Thompson, Mark. Online Journalism Review, Posted July 28, 2004

<http://ojr.org/ojr/workplace/1091056600.php>

A growing number of newspapers correct errors in their online archives and Web sites by editing stories rather than attaching corrections. This is a new development, since papers used to retain all stories exactly as they appeared in the final print edition of that day's newspaper, errors and all, and append corrections in a separate box. Mark Thompson discusses the argument for and against such an approach, as well as the implications for researchers.

NOTE: Library Info Alert is available to subscribers only. You may contact us through e-mail to order the requested material. Full text of articles will be sent to you as soon as possible.

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